

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2223

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: SENHOR ON ILO

1. IRVING BROWN OF AFL-CIO HAD LONG AND FRIENDLY TALK (13 AUGUST) WITH PRESIDENT SENHOR OF SENEGAL, PRESENTLY ON A PRIVATE VISIT IN PARIS. ACCORDING TO BROWN THE FOLLOWING ITEMS RAISED BY HIM ELICITED GENERALLY A COOPERATIVE RESPONSE FROM SENHOR:

(A) FUTURE OF ILO AND ESPECIALLY OF ITS TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE: SENHOR AGREED THAT THERE WAS A DANGEROUS TREND DEVELOPING TOWARDS THE ILO BECOMING ANOTHER STRICTLY GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL AGENCY. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS IN THE THIRD WORLD COULD NOT HAVE THE SAME STATUS AND ROLE THAT SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. BROWN EXPLAINED THAT HIS PURPOSE IN TALKING WITH SENHOR AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS OF EQUAL STATUTE IS TO PREVENT A DIVISION

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BETWEEN RICH ANDPOOR COUNTRIES AS THEY SEEK TO COME

TO GRIPS WITH SOME BASIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING ILO.

(B) ISRAEL: THE ANTICIPATED ARAB EFFORTS TO OUST ISRAEL FROM UN WAS THE ONE QUESTION ON WHICH SENGHOR WAS UNEQUIVOCAL AND PROMISED TO SPEAK AGAINST IT IN EVERY FORUM IN WHICH SENEGAL MAY BE PRESENT. SENGHOR FORESEES THAT THE LIMA CONFERENCE OF THE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH THIS ISSUE AND SENEGAL HAS DECIDED TO OPPOSE IT.

(C) INTERNAL SITUATION IN SENEGAL: BROWN WAS RELUCTANT TO BE SPECIFIC ON THE QUESTIONS HE RAISED WITH SENGHOR CONCERNING THE INTERNAL SENEGALESE SCENE, OTHER THAN TO MENTION THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND THE AFLC PROJECTS OF ASSISTANCE IN DAKAR. SENGHOR SEEMED AWARE OF THE AFLC PROJECTS AND APPARENTLY WENT ALONG WITH BROWN'S IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

(D) BROWN SEEMED PLEASED WITH HIS MEETING WITH SENGHOR, WHOM HE FOUND INTELLECTUALLY ON THE RIGHT TRACK, BUT WONDERED WHETHER SENGHOR HAS THE POLITICAL STRENGTH TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS INCLUDING CONFERENCES OF THE TYPE TO BE HELD IN LIMA.

2. COMMENT: THE FOREGOING IS A USEFUL REMINDER OF THE EASY ACCESS BROWN HAS TO TOP AFRICAN LEADERS. FOR THAT MATTER HE DOES NOT DO TOO BADLY IN EUROPE AS WELL. OBVIOUSLY HIS ORGANIZATIONAL TALENT AND POLITICAL ACUMEN ARE WORKING OVERTIME NOW THAT HE FEELS THAT HE HAS SUCH A CHALLENGING AND DEMANDING ISSUE ON HIS HANDS, NAMELY, THE FUTURE OF THE ILO AND FUTURE US ROLE IN IT.

GAMMON

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